

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REACTION OCTOBER 17

1. SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE

PRESIDENT SADAT'S OCTOBER 16 "OPEN LETTER TO
MR. NIXON" PEACE INITIATIVE MONOPOLIZED FRONT PAGE
BANNERHEADS IN ALL CAIRO DAILIES.

ONE OF AL-AHRAM'S NINE BANNERHEADS READ . . .
"PRESIDENT SADAT DECLARES PEACE PROJECT WITH FIVE
SPECIFIC POINTS IN OPEN LETTER TO NIXON."

IN AL-AKHBAR, ONE OF SIX BANNERHEADS READ . . .
"US THREAT DOES NOT FRIGHTEN US--HERE ARE OUR PEACE
CONDITIONS."

IN AL-GUMHOURIYA . . . "EGYPTIAN PEACE PROJECT IN OPEN
LETTER TO NIXON" WAS AMONG EIGHT BANNERHEADS.

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2. AL-AHRAM

REGARDING US REACTION TO SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE, AL-AHARAM PUBLISHED LOWER RIGHT FRONT PAGE REUTER REPORT FROM WASHINGTON STATING "AT FIRST GLANCE, U.S. OFFICIALS WELCOMED SADAT'S PROPOSAL TO HOLD UN CONFERENCE ON MIDEAST PEACE." TWO-COLUMN REPORT SAID OFFICIALS WANTED MORE TIME TO STUDY SADAT'S PROPOSAL. ALSO ON LOWER FRONT PAGE, AL-AHRAM PUBLISHED OSLO WIRE SERVICE STORY ON NOBEL PRIZE FOR KISSINGER AND THO.

TEL AVIV WIRE SERVICE REPORT MADE LEAD FOREIGN PAGE STORY UNDER FIVE-COLUMN HEADLINE: "VOLUME OF U.S. ARMS TO ISRAEL DEPENDS ON ITS NEEDS." TWO-COLUMN REPORT SUPPLEMENTING LEAD STORY COVERED DISPATCH OF 2,000 MARINES TO SIXTH FLEET.

LEAD AL-AHARAM EDITORIAL SAID U.S. WILL BE MISTAKEN IF IT BELIEVES THAT DETENTE MEANS IMPOSING ISRAEL'S CONDITIONS AS BASIS FOR ME SETTLEMENT. HATEM SADEQ, IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL, SAID SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE FOILED U.S.- ISRAELI POLITICAL INITIATIVE. IN THIRD EDITORIAL, DR. ADIB EL-GADIR SUGGESTED: NATIONALIZING U.S. SHARES IN OIL COMPANIES OPERATING IN ARAB WORLD; SELLING NO CRUDE OIL, NATURAL GAS OR REFINED PRODUCTS TO U.S.; SELLING OIL TO EUROPE AND JAPAN IN RETURN FOR HARD CURRENCIES OTHER THAN DOLLARS AND SELLING OIL TO SOCIALIST AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ON BARTER AND EASY CREDIT TERMS.

3. AL-AKHBAR

AL-AKHBAR PUBLISHED TWO COLUMN FRONT PAGE WASHINGTON WIRE SERVICE ITEM SAYING "U.S. ALLEGES IT IS MERELY COMPENSATING ISRAELI WAR LOSSES ... EVERY MINUTE U.S. PLANE CARRIES ARMS TO ISRAEL." AL-AKHBAR IN ONE-COLUMN FRONT PAGE STORY CARRIED ITEMS ABOUT U.S. MARINES BEING DISPATCHED TO SIXTH FLEET; SENATOR MANSFIELD'S SUGGESTION TO HOLD SIX-PARTY ME CONFERENCE AND STORY QUOTING SENATOR FULBRIGHT AS SAYING ISRAEL "ERRED DURING LAST SIX YEARS BY NOT CONCLUDING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT."

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JERUSALEM WIRE SERVICE REPORT ON LOWER FRONT PAGE QUOTED MRS. MEIR IN KNESSET ADDRESS AS SAYING U.S. AID TO ISRAEL SERVES ITS "SELF INTEREST." WASHINGTON'S WELCOME OF SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE WAS REPORTED IN LOWER FRONT PAGE ONE-COLUMN REUTER REPORT.

AL-AKHBAR CAPPED ITS EXTREME LEFT FOREIGN PAGE

COLUMN WITH OSLO WIRE SERVICE STORY HEADLINED ..." NOBEL PRIZE AWARDED TO KISSINGER WHILE U.S. INTERVENES MILITARILY TO KILL PEACE."

EDITORIALIZING ON AL-AKHBAR'S BACK PAGE, ABDEL AZIS KHAMIS CRITICIZED U.S. AND EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTING "ZIONIST AGGRESSION," AND MOHAMED ZAKI ABDEL QADER EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT U.S., WHICH WAS ENTHUSIASTIC IN CREATING UN AND SAFEGUARDING ITS CHARTER, IS NOW SUPPORTING ISRAEL WITH ARMS AND TROOPS.

4. AL-GOMHOURIYA

LEAD FOREIGN PAGE STORY IN AL-GOMHOURIYA DEALT WITH "FURY AROUND ARAB WORLD BECAUSE OF U.S. INTERVENTION." FOREIGN PAGE'S SECOND LEAD STORY QUOTED WASHINGTON WIRE SERVICES ON U.S. ARMS RESUPPLIES TO ISRAEL.

SCATTERED ON-COLUMN FOREIGN PAGE ITEMS COVERED FUL-BRIGHT WARNING AGAINST "REPEATING VIETNAM ERROR IN MIDEAST"... TIGHTENING SECURITY OF U.S. EMBASSY IN RABAT... PRICES DROP ON NEW YORK STOCK MARKET ... EGYPT'S COMPLAINT AGAINST ISRAEL'S USE OF "AMERICAN-MADE, ANTI-CIVILIAN" BOMBS... U.S. AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL "SUPERVISING" UNLOADING ARMS RESUPPLIES. KISSINGER AND THO, NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS, WERE COVERED IN BRIEF AFP ITEM FROM OSLO. AL-GOMHOURIYA COMMENTED: "WE BELIEVE PEACE CANNOT BE DIVIDED...KISSINGER'S CONDUCT AND STATEMENTS CONCERNING ARAB LIBERATION... DO NOT INDICATE HE WORKS FOR PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE."

5. COMMENT:

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THE EGYPTIAN PRESS TODAY SEEMS TO BE TAKING "WAIT AND SEE" POSTURE TOWARD U.S. AND ITS RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. PRESS HAS PICKED UP MOST AVAILABLE INTERNATIONAL WIRE-SERVICE STORIES THAT CAST U.S. IN BAD LIGHT FROM EGYPTIAN POINT OF VIEW BUT, AS YET, THERE HAVE BEEN VERY FEW ORIGINAL EDITORIALS THAT HAVE ATTACKED U.S. POLICY OR ACTIONS AND THOSE FEW HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY MODERATE AND REASONED.

SMITH

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